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MEMORANDUM

TO : J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

May 5, 1964

FROM : John Hart Ely

Our discussion of this afternoon suggests to me that the function of my memorandum of April 22, 1964, has been misunderstood. It was designed to inform Messrs. Jenner and Liebeler as to what information concerning the Marine Corps was in our possession, and what information we lacked. It was not intended as a final, or even a preliminary, draft of the Commission's report.

I therefore felt at liberty to include suggestions phrased in the first person. If I am asked to write a draft of the Marine section of the final report, I shall neither make suggestions nor write in the first person.

Similarly, because this was a memorandum, I mentioned Oswald's venereal disease, just as I mentioned every other fact I had encountered. Upon reviewing my memorandum, I can find no passage recommending a further investigation of this disease. I intended to make no such suggestion and regret that my words were susceptible of that interpretation. I tried to treat it like any other event in Oswald's life, and intended neither to suggest that it is probative of whether or not Oswald killed President Kennedy, nor to "smear" Oswald. (Please see my memorandum of April 22, 1964, at p. 13)

cc: Mr. Willens
Mr. Ely